

ACAPTAININ THE RANKS

By George Carey Eggleston

(Continued from Last Week.)

SYNOPSIS.

Captain Guilford Duncan, C. S. A., takes part in the last fight, at Appomattox, and leaves the army. He then determines to go to Cairo, Ill. Although well educated and a lawyer, Captain Duncan is without family or money, and works his passage to Cairo. Here he saves Captain Hallam's cotton from fire, and Captain Hallam, a modern "captain of industry," hires Captain Duncan, and quickly advances in his employer's estimation. He saves Captain Hallam's coal fleet from destruction by a storm, and is made a partner by Captain Hallam. The young man becomes a force of good among the young men of Cairo. Barbara Verne, a young lady, runs the boarding house in which Captain Duncan takes his meals. Captain Duncan is thanked by Barbara for saving her from annoyance by mischievous boys. He determines to call upon her.

Captain Duncan invites Barbara to a dance. He incurs the enmity of Napper Tandy, a capitalist, a rival of Captain Hallam, by making of the latter's coal mine a paying property, in competition with one of Tandy's properties. At the coal mine Duncan meets an old acquaintance, Dick Temple, now working as a miner. Dick Temple suggests a way to increase the output of the mine and is appointed engineer. XVI—Duncan, who is in love with Barbara. Napper Tandy attempts to bribe Duncan. Duncan proposes to Barbara. She tells him she cannot give him a decided answer. Napper Tandy circulates the story that Duncan has asked him for a bribe. To retaliate, Hallam proposes to buy sufficient shares in Tandy's bank to elect Duncan president. Dick Temple is commissioned by Hallam to buy the bank stock. Barbara tells Duncan she cannot marry him because she is the daughter of a thief. Temple succeeds in buying the bank stock. Barbara tells Duncan she cannot marry him because she is the daughter of a thief. Temple succeeds in buying the bank stock. Duncan learns from Barbara that her father was an embezzler and a suicide. She tells him to wait a year before she finally rejects or accepts his proposal.

CHAPTER XXIII.

AS Guilford Duncan sat late that night recalling the events of the evening he felt himself more and more nearly satisfied with the outcome of his wooing. It was true, of course, that Barbara had not promised to become his wife, as he had hoped that she might do, but at any rate she had confessed her love for him in a way that left nothing to conjecture.

Moreover, as he reflected upon the compact, he saw how certainly the close and intimate friendship for which it provided must daily and hourly draw the two lovers closer and closer together, making each of them more and more necessary to the other.

As he realized the extent of his success in his wooing he planned to perfect it in a hundred ways. He resolved to make every possible opportunity for Barbara to help him, in order that she might learn how helpful she could be. He determined to acquaint her with all his affairs in the utmost detail, in order that she might make herself more and more a part of his life.

"I will be as frank with her," he resolved, "as if she were already my wife. She shall share my sorrows as well as my joys. And what a comfort her sympathy will be!"

He slept little that night, yet on the morrow he went to his work with a buoyancy of spirit such as he had not known since that evening when he had first declared his love.

It was in this mood of elation and hopefulness that he went to the Hallams' an hour before the supper time. He did not yet know what Hallam and Temple had been trying to do, and of course he knew nothing of the success they had achieved. But in his present mood he was optimistic enough to hope for some good result. He thought he might meet Temple at supper if his work, whatever it was, had been finished, and when he found that his friend was neither present nor expected he satisfied himself with the reflection that the task Temple had undertaken was very probably one requiring a good deal more time than had elapsed since he began it. A little later he got more definite information.

"Temple isn't to be with us," he half said, half asked; after the greetings were over.

"No," answered Captain Will. "He has gone back to the mines. He is rather done up with the work and anxiety and loss of sleep. I tried to make him take possession of your rooms this afternoon for a straightaway sleep, but he thought he'd rather go back to his wife till the 10th. He'll be here, however, in time to assist at the grand finale, as the show people call it."

"I'm afraid I don't understand," said Duncan, with a look of inquiry.

"Why, there's to be a meeting of the stockholders of the X National on the 10th, you know."

"I didn't know. But what of it?"

"Why, only that your friend Temple wants to be there, when he and I

march into the meeting controlling a majority interest and elect a board of directors for old Napper Tandy, leaving him completely out of it. Not a word about that, however, to anybody till the time comes. We want to add to the dramatic effect by making the thing a complete surprise."

If Captain Will Hallam had been a robust boy of ten chewing upon a particularly toothsome morsel he could not have shown a greater relish for what was in his mouth than he did for these sentences as he uttered them.

But Duncan was still mystified, and in answer to his questions Captain Hallam explained.

"When you got yourself into trouble by monkeying with the accentuations of a buzz saw," he said, "I could see only one way out, and that was to put you into a position where even the disembodied spirit of Calumny itself could not pretend to believe old Napper Tandy's yarn. You know, Tandy is fond of playing tricks, especially upon me, and as the president and controlling spirit of a rather strong bank he has been able to give me a good deal of trouble now and then. A year ago Stafford and I decided that it might some day be handy for us to control a majority of the stock in Tandy's bank. There was a good deal of it lying about loose—that is to say, a number of people held little blocks of it, ranging from one share to five. All of these people were more or less under Tandy's influence, and all of them were in the habit of giving him proxies to vote their stock or else themselves going into the stockholders' meeting and voting as he desired."

"Stafford and I quietly set about buying up this loose stock, through other people, of course, so that we shouldn't appear in the matter. We had got 48 per cent of it when you got yourself into trouble with Tandy. It occurred to me that if we could get three or four more shares and emphasize our confidence in you by making you president of Tandy's own bank and turning him out to grass he might see the point and stop his lies. I flatter myself that Stafford and I are pretty well known all over the west and among bankers in the east. We are not at all generally regarded as a pair of sublimated idiots, which same we should certainly be if we deliberately made a bank president out of a young man whose integrity was open to any possibility of suspicion. Now, don't be in a hurry"—seeing that Duncan was eager to ask questions or to express his appreciation of Captain Hallam's interest in himself—"don't be in a hurry and don't interrupt. Let me tell you the whole story. At first I didn't see any possible way in which to secure the three shares, without which I could do nothing. I took pains to have the stock register of the bank examined. I found that Tandy himself and the members of his immediate family owned forty-eight shares, and that four more belonged to Kennedy, the tug captain whom you discharged after calling him by a picturesque variety of pet names. Of course it was of no use to approach Kennedy even through an outsider, as he is in Tandy's employ now and very deeply in Tandy's debt. I must explain that as Stafford and I had bought stock through agents of our own we had kept our hands concealed by leaving the several shares nominally in the hands of the men we had employed to buy them and instructing those men to go on voting the stock in whatever way Tandy wished. This made Tandy feel perfectly secure of his control of the bank. Even if he had sold out half his own interest he would have felt secure, seeing that all the floating stock was within his voting control. You see, I'm a rather good natured man, on the whole, and I never like to make a man feel uncomfortable unless I must."

"When your trouble arose I thought I saw that there was nothing for it but to make a strike for some of Tandy's own stock. I didn't much believe the thing could be done, but I've seen so many miracles worked in my time that I believe in them. You sent for Temple—and, by the way, he's a fellow that's built from the ground up—and I set him at work. I told him what we wanted done and why, but I could not tell him how to do it, because I didn't know. I gave him a free hand and left him to use his own wits. As they happened to be particularly good wits, he did the trick within less than two days. He managed to buy Kennedy's four shares, not from Kennedy, but from Tandy himself, so that now when the stockholders' meeting comes I'll march in representing the two shares that I'm known to own, and Temple will be with me, holding proxies for all the rest of mine and Stafford's stock. We'll vote fifty-two against forty-eight. We'll name all the directors, and they will make you president at once. I'll put some shares in your hands to qualify you, but you ought actually to own at least ten shares in your own right. Have you got any money loose?"

Captain Hallam knew very well that Duncan had a sufficient deposit balance in the Hallam bank to cover the suggested purchase, but he wanted to forestall and prevent the expression of Duncan's thanks.

CHAPTER XXIV.

UPON becoming president of a strong bank and the close associate of Hallam and Stafford in all their undertakings, Guilford Duncan became at once a factor to be recognized and reckoned with in all enterprises with which he had to do. He had brains, character and indomitable energy, and these had already won for him the respect of the men of affairs. Now that he had con-

trol of money also, his power and influence were multiplied many fold.

Very early in his career as a banker Guilford Duncan discovered that half the merchants in Cairo were young men of little capital who were staggering under loads of debt on which they were paying ruinous rates of interest.

It was easy enough for him to protect his bank by gradually reducing its loans to such men as these, but the prudence thus exercised added to the number of his enemies. He cared little for that so long as he knew his course to be right.

Looking farther afield, he saw that a like condition of things existed all over the west and was the inspiration of much greater undertakings than those of the merchants and shopkeepers.

He used often to talk of these things with Hallam.

"You're quite right," said that sagacious financier. "The country has gone on a big financial drunk, and of course the headache will come when the spree is over. But it won't be over for a considerable time to come, and in the meanwhile the country is getting a good deal of benefit from it."

"Fortunately it is taking a better course than such sprees usually do. Ordinarily the existence of an inflated, superabundant and depreciated currency results in a wild orgy of stock gambling, grain gambling, cotton gambling and all the rest of it. There is no more of good in that—in fact, there is far more of harm in it to the country—than there would be if everybody went to betting at roulette or faro. It makes the lucky gamblers rich and the unlucky ones poor, but it produces nothing, even incidentally. This time the gambling is taking a more productive form. Instead of betting on market fluctuations men are putting money into factories, mines, mills and railroads,



"You're quite right," said the sagacious financier.

especially railroads. They are enormously overdoing the thing, but whenever they build a railroad, even unwisely, the railroad will remain as something to show for the money when the spree is over."

Then the talk turned into a more practical channel.

"You feel sure, then," asked Duncan, "that we are making no mistake and doing no harm in carrying out our project of a railroad that shall bring Cairo closer to New York in the matter of railroad mileage?"

"Perfectly sure. That railroad is imperatively needed. It will develop a very rich agricultural region which has been practically shut off from the world. There is traffic enough for the road already within sight to make it pay. When it is built it will compel a cheapening of freight rates, to the advantage of the whole country."

"You are right, of course," answered Duncan reflectively. "I have gone over that subject very conscientiously. I am convinced that the road can carry the debt that must be incurred in building it and that it will pay its way. If I had any serious doubt of that I should have nothing to do with the thing."

"As it is," responded Hallam, "you've got the heavy end of the log to carry, so far as work is concerned. When are you going to begin your campaign?"

"Almost immediately. I've got everything in the bank into satisfactory shape now, and three days hence I shall begin a speaking tour in the interior counties. I'll make it even more a talking tour than a speaking one, for while a public speech, if it is persuasive enough, may influence many, it is the quieter talking to individuals and small groups that does most to win votes. I've already secured the co-operation of all the country editors, but they need stirring up. Of course you and Stafford and Tandy will take care of Cairo and Alexander county."

This proposed railroad was one clearly destined to be of the utmost consequence to Cairo and to the region through which the line must run. The method by which it was planned to secure its construction was the one then in general use throughout the west. It may be simply explained. Everybody concerned was asked to subscribe to what might properly have been called an inducement fund. The subscriptions were meant to be gifts made to secure the benefit of the railroad's construction. More important than these personal subscriptions and vastly greater in amount were the subscriptions of counties, cities and towns. Under the law as it then existed each county, city or town, if its people so voted, could "lend its credit" to an enterprise of this kind by issuing its own bonds. When a sufficient sum was raised in this way an effort was made, usually in New York, to secure the forming of a construction company. The whole volume of the subscriptions was offered as an inducement to such a construction company to undertake the building of the road. Usually the

construction company was to have in addition a considerable share of the stock of the road when completed. The city, county and town subscriptions of course depended upon the results of special elections held for that sole purpose.

In this case the personal subscriptions had been satisfactory, and there was no doubt that the two terminal cities and the counties in which they lay would vote the bonds asked of them, but there was grave doubt as to the results in the rural counties, in each of which a special election was to be held a month or two later. It was Guilford Duncan's task to remove that doubt, to persuade the voters to favor the proposed subscriptions and incidentally to secure rights of way, station sites, etc., by gift from the land-owners.

During the next two months he toiled ceaselessly at this task, going to Cairo only once a week to keep in touch with his bank and to pass the Sundays with Barbara.

Tandy also worked in the county towns, where he had a good deal of influence. He had been made president of the proposed railroad and was supposed to be very earnestly interested in it. He was so—in his own way and with purposes of his own.

Duncan's campaign was a tireless one, and it proved successful. When the elections occurred every county and every town voted in favor of the proposed subscription, but some of them did so by majorities so narrow as to show clearly how great the need of Duncan's work had been.

"Worse still," he said to Hallam a few weeks later, "the smallness of the majorities in two or three counties is a threat to us and a warning. The county authorities are putting all sorts of absurd provisions into their subscriptions, and they will give us trouble if our construction company fails in the smallest particular to meet these requirements."

"Just what are the conditions?"

"Oh, every sort of thing. In every county it is provided that we shall somewhere break ground for construction before the last of January, less than two months hence, or forfeit the subscription. That gives us too little time for organization, but we can meet that requirement by sending a gang of men at our own expense to do a day's work somewhere on the line. In two of the counties there is a peculiarly absurd provision. There are rival villages there, one in each county, and the authorities have stipulated that 'a track shall be laid across the county line and a car shall pass over said track from one county to the other' before the 15th of March. Curiously enough, I learn that Tandy himself suggested that stipulation to the county authorities. I hear he is giving it out that he had to do so to save the election, but that's nonsense, just as the provision itself is. Such a requirement will greatly embarrass us in our negotiations with capitalists, for the line will not be fully surveyed by that time, and nobody can tell till that is done precisely where the road ought to cross that county line or at what grade. I can't imagine what Tandy meant by getting such a provision inserted."

"Neither can I," answered Hallam, "but we'll find out some fine morning, and we must be prepared to meet whatever comes. He's up to some trick, of course."

(To be continued.)

Declined Her Own Medicine.

There is always more or less talk current about abolishing position and dispensing pelf. The trouble is to know just where to begin the destructive reconstruction and to find reformers who are willing themselves to be reformed. An English great lady was once entertaining the labor member of parliament, Henry Broadhurst, the Duke of Argyll and others at her country seat. She was a strong Liberal, and one evening inveighed against the house of lords. It would be swept away if it did not reform, she said with fervor.

"Yes," agreed Broadhurst, "and how will you like that, Mrs. P.?"

"Lady P. If you please, sir," instantly corrected Broadhurst's hostess, drawing herself up haughtily.

A River of Death.

Before the English occupation of India it was estimated that the Ganges carried to the sea every year 1,000,000 dead bodies. It was then considered by the Hindoos that the happiest death was one found in its waves, and all pious Hindoos who could do so were carried to its banks and placed in its waters to die. The decaying carcasses along its banks were probably responsible in no small degree for the pestilences which formerly desolated the peninsula.

Summer Diarrhoea in Children.

During the hot weather of the summer months the first unnatural looseness of a child's bowels should have immediate attention, so as to check the disease before it becomes serious. All that is necessary is a few doses of Chamberlain's Colic, Cholera and Diarrhoea Remedy followed by a dose of Castor oil to cleanse the system. Rev. M. O. Stockland, pastor of the first M. E. Church of Little Falls, Minn., writes: "We have used Chamberlain's Colic, Cholera and Diarrhoea Remedy for several years and find it a very valuable remedy, especially for summer disorders in children." Sold by Frank Hart, leading druggist. aug

Where They Have Time to Be Polite.

Copenhagen, Denmark, is a city of canals and cleanliness—a land of pure delight, free from beggars, organ grinders and stray dogs. The inhabitants thereof are born courteous and seem never to have recovered from the habit.

When a passenger boards a car in Copenhagen he exchanges greetings with the conductor. A gentleman on leaving the car usually lifts his hat in acknowledgment of a salute from that official. When a fare is paid the conductor drops it into his cash box, thanks the passenger and gives him a little paper receipt.

He offers change with a preliminary "Be so good," and the passenger accepts with thanks. If, in addition, transfers are required complimentary exchanges go on indefinitely. Yet there is always time enough in Copenhagen.—Caroline Domett in Four Track News.

Scotland and Whisky.

"One of the grossest misconceptions from which Scotland suffers," says a writer, "is that her national drink is and always has been whisky. But this is just as untrue, neither more nor less, as that the national garb of Scotland is the kilt. Whisky, like the kilt, is a purely Celtic or highland product, and up to the middle of the eighteenth century it was just as unfamiliar in the lowlands as the kilt. It was only after the '45 that the 'lowlanders' began to settle in the lowlands and bring their whisky with them, before that the national drink of the lowlanders had been rice—Tanner Shanter and Scott's Jelling got 'round you' not on whisky, but on straw beer."

Herbine

Restores the bile more fluid and thus helps the blood to flow; it affords prompt relief from biliousness, indigestion, sick and nervous headaches, and over-indulgence in food and drink.

G. L. Caldwell, Agt. M. K. and T. R. R., Checotah, Ind. Ter., writes, April 18, 1903: "I was sick for over two years with enlargement of the liver and spleen. The doctors did me no good, and I had given up all hope of being cured, when my druggist advised me to use Herbine. It has made me sound and well." 50c. Sold by Hart's drug store.

Stomach Troubles and Constipation.

No one can reasonably hope for good digestion when the bowels are constipated. Mr. Chas. Baldwin, of Edwardsville, Ill., says, "I suffered from chronic constipation and stomach troubles for several years, but thanks to Chamberlain's Stomach and Liver Tablets am almost cured." Why not get a package of these tablets and get well and stay well? Price 25 cents. For sale by Frank Hart, leading druggist. aug

Cures Sciatica

Rev. W. L. Riley, L. L. D., Cuba, New York, writes: "After fifteen days of excruciating pain from sciatic rheumatism, under various treatments, I was induced to try Ballard's Snow Liniment; the first application giving my first relief and the second entire relief. I can give it unqualified recommendation. 25c. 50c. \$1.00. Sold by Hart's drug store."

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Castoria is a harmless substitute for Castor Oil, Paregoric, Drops and Soothing Syrups. It is Pleasant. It contains neither Opium, Morphine nor other Narcotic substance. Its age is its guarantee. It destroys Worms and allays Feverishness. It cures Diarrhoea and Wind Colic. It relieves Teething Troubles, cures Constipation and Flatulency. It assimilates the Food, regulates the Stomach and Bowels, giving healthy and natural sleep. The Children's Panacea—The Mother's Friend.

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